

Town skeptical of major redevelopment at Barber Mill

By **STUART JOHNSTON**
Staff writer

Plans to redevelop the former Barber Mill in Georgetown have now been formalized, but town officials seem skeptical that it will even get off the ground.

Owner Jeremy Riley has ambitious plans for the decrepit old structure bordering the Credit River at River Dr. He intends to convert the main floor of the 66,000 square foot building into a village theatre, conference room, craft stores and boutiques. On the top floor will be 63 seniors' apartments. Also, a combination of afford-

able townhouses and apartments, totaling 157 units in three, four-storey and one, three-storey buildings, will be constructed.

However, because the proposal is literally on the banks of the Credit, and further along upstream where there are environmentally sensitive lands, some councillors believe it will take a lot of work and changes to the plans before they will even consider it.

Councillor Anne Currie produced a document from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority (CVCA) that she claims is critical of the development at this stage. Currie is one of council's representatives on

the CVCA board.

"There are so many things to be answered — there are a great many doubts," she told deputy planning director Bruce MacLean Monday night. "It will take a lot of fixing to get that development on that land."

Councillor Gail Rutherford also



ANNE CURRIE

raised a number of concerns. She wondered aloud if the development is "premature," arguing that sufficient amounts of water have yet to be found in Georgetown for all developments, not just this proposal. She also asked that a social impact study be conducted on the property, since the bulk of the proposal involves low-cost housing.

"My main concern is the social impact that this development may have," she said. "Since it's all of the same kind of homes together in one area, I think it would be better if we wait for comments by (Halton's social services department)... We should also have a financial impact

report outlining the cost of sidewalks, snow clearing and that kind of thing. We should ask the applicant to do that so we know the impact on the rest of the taxpayers."

Rutherford pointed out two abandoned landfill sites in the immediate area of the proposed development, and asked that they be taken into consideration when the ministry of environment reviews the plans.

Riley and his consultants first presented his proposal to council in late August, but only recently submitted a formal application for the town to review.

Health study launched

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff writer

Halton District Health Council wants to find out what health issues are most important to the women of Halton and what concerns they have about health treatment, access and support in the region.

The council plans to uncover this information through a recently launched \$50,000 Women's Health Study. Throughout the fall, focus groups will be set up across the region, including Halton Hills, providing women with a chance to raise concerns on women's health issues.

A 21-member committee of consumers and health care providers, led by Dr. Susan French, past dean of nursing at McMaster University, has been formed to plan the study. The committee will meet monthly and set up six working groups designed to involve other women in the study.

Marlene Longdon, executive director of Halton District Health Council, says the study will focus on six areas known to be of concern to women. They are: reproductive health and reproductive disorders, chronic and degenerative disorders, mental health and addictions, violence against women, women and cancer and lifestyle and environmental

impacts on health.

Longdon says other areas will be studied if they appear to be issues for Halton women.

"We will likely also hold open forums," said Longdon. "We may have someone come in and do a presentation on an issue, then generate some discussion from the audience." Surveys may also be used.

"While we are aware that we have many good and accessible services in Halton, this is a chance to make the system even better."

Longdon says similar studies have been undertaken by other regional health councils but adds that study results vary because of the range of services available in each region.

The funding for the study, which is to be completed by next June, has come from the Ministry of Health.

Longdon says no dates have been set yet for the focus groups or forums but she is interested in hearing from people who want to help organize the study in their area, or women who want to participate in the study.

Anyone interested can call Longdon at 842-2120, toll-free in Halton Hills at Zenith 40340, or write the Halton District Health Council, 700 Dorval Dr., Suite 510, Oakville, Ontario, L6K 3V3.

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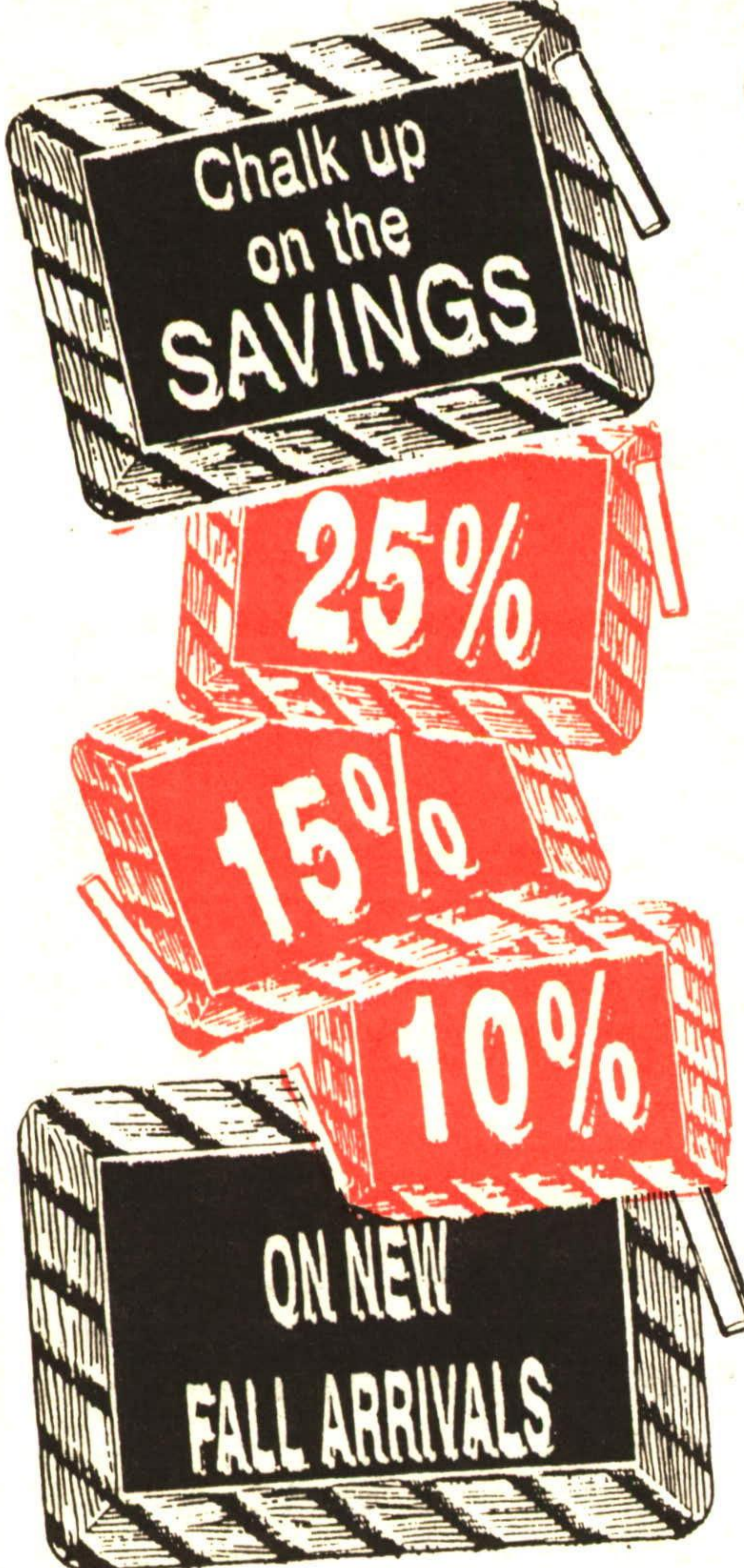


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